

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 5, 7, 8, 20, 22, 23, 31, 33 and 34.

Please amend claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 11, 16, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 32, 35, 36, 37, 42 and 46-48 as set forth in the attached "Listing of Claims".

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for stabilizing antioxidant compounds selected from the group consisting of levogyrous acid (LAA), proanthocyanidines (OPCs) and mixtures thereof, comprising:

contacting said antioxidant compounds, in an aqueous medium, with an oxygen-removing compound, a metallic ion sequestering compound and a reducing agent; wherein the oxygen-removing compound is a glycol; further wherein the metallic ion sequestering compound is selected from the group consisting of sodium salt of 1-hydroxy ethylidene (1,1-diphosphate) acid, ethylene diamine tetra(methylenephosphonic) acid, sodium salt of ethylene diamine tetra(methylenephosphonic) acid, diethylene diamine penta(methylenephosphonic) acid, sodium salt of diethylene diamine penta(methylene phosphonic) acid, hydroxyethylidene (1,1-diphosphate) acid and mixtures thereof.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is LAA.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the antioxidant compounds are a mixture of LAA and proanthocyanidines (OPCs).

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A process in accordance with claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein the oxygen-removing compound is selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, butylene glycol and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A process in accordance with claim 8 1, wherein the metallic ion sequestering agent is 1-hydroxyethylidene (1,1-diphosphonic) acid.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium dithionite, sodium bisulfites, calcium bissulfites, potassium bissulfites, ~~Glutathione~~ glutathione, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A process in accordance with claim 10, wherein the reducing agent is ~~Glutathione~~ glutathione or sodium dithionite.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A process in accordance with claim 1, comprising a first step of preparing an aqueous solution containing the oxygen-removing compound, the metallic ion sequestering agent and the reducing agent, and a second step of adding the antioxidant to the thus prepared composition, in a aqueous medium.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A process in accordance with claim 12, wherein the composition formed in the first step comprises the oxygen-removing compound in a range from about 10% to about 25%, the metallic ion sequestering agent in a range from about 0.01% to about 0.20%, the reducing agent at a concentration of about 0.01% to about 0.5%, the content of the antioxidant being from about 0.01 % to about 30%, all the percentages being by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A process in accordance with claim 13, wherein the composition formed in the first step comprises the oxygen-removing compound in a range from about 16% to about 19%, the metallic ion sequestering agent in a range from about 0.10% to about 0.20% and the reducing agent at a concentration from about 0.05% to about 0.2%, the

content of the antioxidant being from about 0.5% to about 20% by weight.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A process in accordance with claim 12, wherein the antioxidant is an OPC, and wherein said first composition also comprises LAA.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An aqueous composition comprising at least one antioxidant compound selected from the group consisting of levogyrous ascorbic acid (LAA), proanthocyanidines (OPCs) and mixtures thereof, an oxygen-removing compound, a metallic ion sequestering agent and an oxidation reaction reverting compound; wherein the oxygen-removing compound is a glycol; further wherein the metallic ion sequestering compound is selected from the group consisting of sodium salt of 1-hydroxy ethylidene (1,1-diphosphate) acid, ethylene diamine tetra(methylenephosphonic) acid, sodium salt of ethylene diamine tetra(methylenephosphonic) acid, diethylene diamine penta(methylenephosphonic) acid, sodium salt of diethylene diamine penta(methylene phosphonic) acid, hydroxyethylidene (1,1-diphosphate) acid and mixtures thereof.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): An aqueous composition in accordance with claim 16, wherein the antioxidant is LAA.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): An aqueous composition in accordance with claim 16, wherein the antioxidant compounds are a mixture of LAA and proanthocyanidines (OPCs).

Claim 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An aqueous composition in accordance with claim 20 16, wherein the oxygen-removing compound is selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, butylene glycol and mixtures thereof.

Claim 22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An aqueous composition in accordance with claim ~~23~~ 16, wherein the metallic ion sequestering agent is 1-hydroxyethylidene (1,1-diphosphate) acid.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): An aqueous composition in accordance with claim 16, wherein the oxidation reaction reverting compound is selected from the group consisting of sodium dithionite, sodium bissulfites, calcium bissulfites, potassium bissulfites, ~~Glutathione~~ glutathione, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): An aqueous composition in accordance with claim 25, wherein the oxidation reaction reverting compound is ~~Glutathione~~ glutathione or sodium dithionite.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): An aqueous composition in accordance with claim 18, comprising from about 0.01 % to about 30% of LAA, from about 10% to about 25% of an oxygen-removing compound, from about 0.01% to about 0.20% of a metallic ion sequestering agent, and from about 0.01 % to about 0.5% of an oxidation reaction reverting compound.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A two-phase aqueous cosmetic composition, comprising, in a first phase, at least one antioxidant compound selected from the group consisting of levogyrous ascorbic acid (LAA), proanthocyanidines (OPCs) and mixtures thereof, an oxygen-removing compound, a metallic ion sequestering agent and a reducing agent and, in a second phase, at least one hydrating compound; wherein the oxygen-removing compound is a glycol; further wherein the metallic ion sequestering compound is selected from the group consisting of sodium salt of 1-hydroxy ethylidene (1,1-diphosphate) acid, ethylene diamine tetra(methylenephosphonic) acid, sodium salt of ethylene diamine tetra(methylenephosphonic) acid, diethylene diamine penta(methylenephosphonic) acid, sodium salt of diethylene diamine

penta(methylene phosphonic) acid, hydroxyethylidene (1,1-diphosphate) acid and mixtures thereof.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A two-phase composition in accordance with claim 28, wherein the weight ratio between the first and second phases is from about 12: 8 to 20: 11.

Claim 30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Canceled)

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A two-phase composition in accordance with claim ~~31~~ 28, wherein the oxygen-removing compound is selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, butylene glycol and mixtures thereof.

Claim 33 (Canceled)

Claim 34 (Canceled)

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A two-phase composition in accordance with claim ~~34~~ 28, wherein the metallic ion sequestering agent is 1-hydroxy ethylidene (1,1-diphosphate) acid.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A two-phase composition in accordance with claim 28 wherein the reducing agent is selected from the group comprising sodium dithionite, sodium bisulfites, calcium bisulfites, potassium bisulfites, ~~Glutathione~~ glutathione, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): An aqueous two-phase composition in accordance with claim 36, the reducing agent is ~~Glutathione~~ glutathione or sodium dithionite.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): A two-phase composition in accordance with claim 28, wherein the hydrating compound is glycerin.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): A two-phase composition in accordance with claim 28, wherein the second phase comprises ceramides in a liquid crystal emulsion form.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): A two-phase composition in accordance with claim 39, wherein, in the first phase, an aqueous composition comprising an amount of 0.2 to 10% of ascorbic acid and about 0.001 to 2,2% of OPC's and, in the second phase, glycerin in a range from 1.0 to 10%, and 0.5 to 3,0% of ceramides contained in a liquid crystal emulsion, all percentages being based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): A two-phase composition in accordance with claim 28, wherein, in its second phase, about 13 to 25% of emollients, about 1 to 4% of an anti-radical agent, about 0.001 to 0.3% of a preservative, and about 0.05 to 0.6% of a thickening agent.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A composition in accordance with claim 28, wherein said composition is in the form of an homogeneous emulsion containing an emulsifying system comprising a first emulsifier including organosilicones and a second emulsifier ~~having a molecular structure similar to that of skin lipids.~~

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): A composition in accordance with claim 42, wherein said organosilicone is cetyl dimethicone copolyol and the second emulsifier is polyglycerol-4-isostearate.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): A composition in accordance with claim 42, wherein said composition is in the form of micro-particles smaller than 3  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): A composition in accordance with claim 44, wherein the micro-particles have a size smaller than 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): A process in accordance with claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein the oxygen-removing compound is propylene glycol.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): An aqueous composition in accordance with claim ~~20~~ 16, wherein the oxygen-removing compound is propylene glycol.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): A two-phase composition in accordance with claim ~~34~~ 28, wherein the oxygen-removing compound is propylene glycol.